THE GUIDE

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February 2011 | Issue 255
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Gemma Bishop

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Painting *for* eternity

From Woolwich to Washington, mosaic artist Gary Drostle's work is brightening up the world

The Gaucho International Polo comes to the O2

Reasons to love Catford

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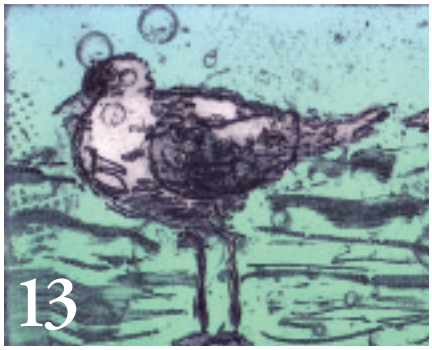

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WIN A PAIR OF EARRINGS BY MOMOJEWELLERY!

In celebration of Valentine's Day and all things romantic, jewellery designer Margaret Liu of MoMoJewellery is giving away a pair of her signature leaf-shaped hoop earrings in sterling silver with semi-precious garnet gems – the stone of love. The gorgeously simple earrings are available to buy for the great price of £27 at Rhubarb and Custard café at 164 Manor Lane SE12 8LP (020 8297 0035) and online at www.etsy.com for £37. For the chance to get your hands on a pair for free, send your name, address and contact details to **The Guide love giveaway, Archant Life, Avon House 5th Floor, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road W14 8TS, or email guidecomp@archant.co.uk**

Model shown is Cayenne Diesel at £47,343 including metallic paint, roof rails, front underbody protection, first year road fund licence and first registration fee.

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The new Cayenne range includes Cayenne from £42,990*, Cayenne Diesel from £45,256, Cayenne S from £55,058, Cayenne S Hybrid from £59,058 and Cayenne Turbo from £84,972. Fuel consumption figures for Cayenne Diesel in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.5 (8.7); Extra Urban 42.8 (6.6); Combined 38.2 (7.4). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 195.

*Tiptronic S

Fresh in white with Shop Greenwich

www.shopgreenwich.co.uk
A collection of unique retailers in Greenwich

Following the festive white weather, begin the virtuous new year with five fresh offerings from Greenwich. For that January birthday or just to treat yourself, white is the way to go. And why not make it an unusual Valentine's for that loved one…

Wei's hand made paper cards from Paper Moon, £8. Intricately hand cut greetings cards inspired by Chinese folk and European fairytales. *4 Greenwich Market SE10 9HZ, T: 07946 211878*

Mini French evening bag from Thierry, £10-15. Handcrafted soft leather bags available in many colours and two sizes, and can be made to order. *At the Market on Wed to Sun, T: 07881 400567*

Victorian toothpaste jar from The Bottle Stall, £15-20. Antique Victorian ceramic stoneware containers make a truly unique gift. *At the Market on Wed, Thurs and Fri*

Russian doll measuring cups from Joy, £10. Quirky measuring cups for the kitchen make cooking even more fun. *9 Nelson Road SE10 9JB, T: 020 8293 7979, www.joythestore.com*

White Talullah jacket by Traffic People, £99. Sumptious elegant jacket for that special occasion. *12-14 Greenwich Church Street SE10 9BJ, T: 020 8269 1071, www.trafficpeople.co.uk*

ANNIVERSARY
I 25
GREENWICH MARKET

Find an original and gorgeous gift on Valentine's Weekend 12th-13th February 2011.

www.shopgreenwich.co.uk

www.shotbythesheriff.com

Victoria Purcell
victoria.purcell@archant.co.uk

So, we're in full 2011 swing. Let there be no more talk of 'holiday brain' (guilty) or January blues, it's time to embrace the new year and get stuck into those resolutions. What's that? You didn't make any? Then let's concentrate on getting stuck into February… one step at a time, eh?

One man who always does things bit by bit is **Gary Drostle, mosaic artist extraordinaire**. He has created beautiful works the world over, but it all starts in his Woolwich studio. His creations can be seen from Lewisham and Erith to Washington and Iowa. Find out more on page 8.

We're exploring Catford this month. Our gorgeous cover shot reveals one of the many secrets SE6 hides. *The Chap* magazine, a somewhat underground publication for the modern gentleman, poked fun at the area's supposed mundanity in recent years, but Catford resident Mark Davidson reckons it is due its day. From festivals and birdwatching to the Broadway Theatre, we round up Catford's best bits on page 40.

For sheer exhilaration, **the event of the month has to be The Gaucho International Polo**, which comes to the O2 on 24 February. Arena polo, a relatively new version of high society's favourite sporting endeavour, compacts the speed and fervour of the game into much tighter boundaries. It'll be fast, it'll be furious, and *you* can win tickets to be there – see page 15 to find out more.

And I'm sure I don't need to mention **Valentine's Day**, you know, that little celebration of love and affection that falls on the 14th? If you're out to impress, why not don your apron and follow Guy Awford's recipe for deliciously seductive seabass...

Happy romancing!

Victoria

On the cover: The sun bouncing off a Catford stretch of the Ravensbourne, which flows through Bromley, Lewisham and Greenwich. Shot by Mark Davidson: www.markdimages.com

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For subcriptions call Sean-Paul Roberts on 020 7605 2206

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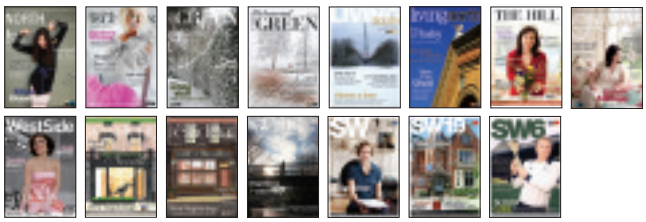

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Domestic economies

Could your second home be paying for itself, or even making you a living?

Finally you've achieved your dream of buying a second home, and maybe for a few weeks each year you relax there with family and friends. But what about the rest of the year? Chances are it just lies empty, while you still have to cover the costs. If only there was some way you could make it pay for itself, or even make a living from it.

With the rise in popularity of private holiday rentals with travellers, many owners are finding that renting out their property makes a substantial contribution towards running costs – or, in many cases, enables them to 'live the dream' of a career change or permanent move abroad.

And it's not just apartments and villas in the sun; demand for holiday rentals in the UK is just as strong, with London one of the most popular destinations. Holiday homes are now popular for all types of getaways worldwide.

Whether you want to rent out a few weeks to cover some costs, make your retirement home pay for itself, or you dream about a career change or living abroad, letting your property could be the answer.

Christiane Morris bought a property in Malta as a holiday home and somewhere to retire to, but she started renting it this year as she needed the income to finance a second property. She already has 10 weeks booked. She explained: "We've been booked virtually all summer and have three enquiries in the pipeline, including one for a three-month long let over winter."

In Prague, Ilan Morris runs a successful holiday rentals business and is planning to set up his own property management company. He explains: "I bought two properties several years ago and was renting them to students, but this wasn't making any money and I was still relying on teaching to make a living. What I really wanted was to run a property business and I realised switching to holiday rentals was key. Renting the properties online via HomeAway Holiday Rentals opened the door for me. It means you don't have to use an agency that will take a big commission, and the cost of my yearly listing is covered with just one booking."

SEE HOW MUCH YOU COULD EARN

To find out how much your holiday home could make, or how to get started, HomeAway Holiday Rentals' Owner Resources section contains all you need to know, including a beginner's guide to renting, and a wealth of articles, check-lists, sample contracts and forms.

Visit www.HomeAway.co.uk/rent or call 020 8827 1971 today to find out more

Top 5 tips for holiday rentals: getting started

1. Cover yourself: Make sure you're allowed to short-let your property, understand the tax implications and take out appropriate insurance.

2. Research your market: Find out which type of travellers visit your area and how similar accommodation in the area is priced.

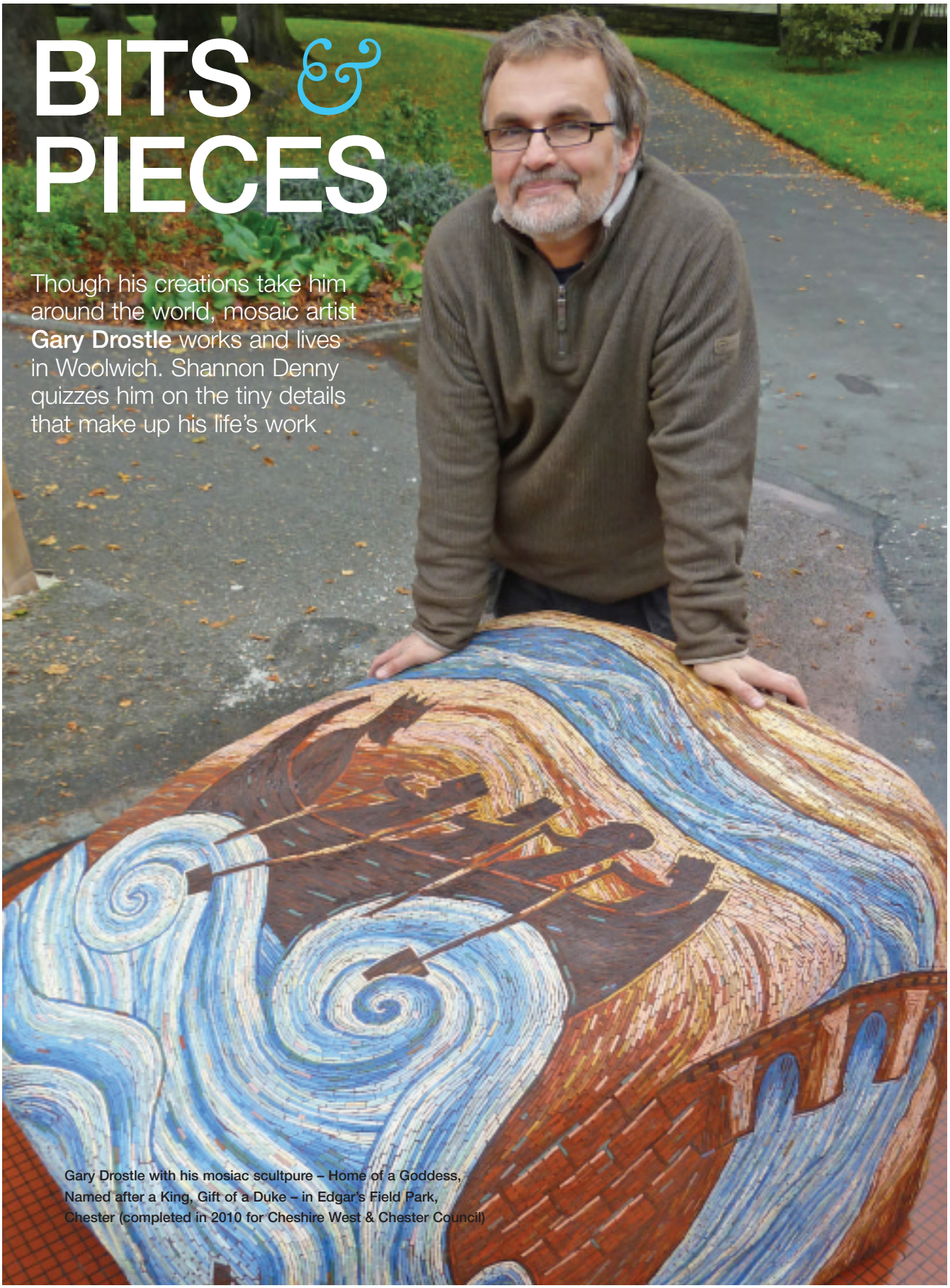
3. Furnish your property for rentals: De-clutter and keep décor simple, and ensure you have all the facilities guests would expect at a self-catering home.

4. Take photos and prepare a description of your property and location: You'll need exterior shots and photos of each room, plus inspiring text highlighting features of the property and location.

5. Advertise: You need to promote your property to get bookings. Creating an online advert is easy and doesn't take long. Call or visit HomeAway.co.uk/rent to find out how.

BITS & PIECES

Though his creations take him around the world, mosaic artist **Gary Drostle** works and lives in Woolwich. Shannon Denny quizzes him on the tiny details that make up his life's work



Gary Drostle with his mosiac scultpure – Home of a Goddess, Named after a King, Gift of a Duke – in Edgar's Field Park, Chester (completed in 2010 for Cheshire West & Chester Council)

Left: The De Luci Fish, Erith, won the Best Architectural Mosaic award at the Mosaic Arts International in Miami in 2008
Below: Movement & Vitality entrance feature mosaic for The University of Iowa

Gary Drostle won the highest award in his profession from Mosaic Arts International, but he admits he's never got around to tiling his own bathroom. With his high-profile mosaics inspiring the public from Lewisham to Washington DC, it's easy to see why he hasn't quite been able to the find time. Though he jokes that his job is really just "colouring in and doing jigsaws", his captivating creations are in fact based on meticulous classical techniques.

The ancient art of mosaic dates back to the early Mesopotamian societies of 5,000 years ago. In the Roman Empire and Byzantine era the medium reached great heights. Today there is a resurgence of mosaics, thanks to a craving for exciting environments that will leave a lasting impression.

One of the unique features of Gary's design work is his background as a mural painter, which shows in the strength of his design work and his feeling for the surrounding architecture. He has won the Rouse Kent Award for public art, a silver medal at RHS Chelsea Flower Show for a garden featuring a Roman mosaic, the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship awarded by the Royal Warrant Holders for excellence in British crafts, and was also elected President of the British Association for Modern Mosaic. He has lectured at East London University, as well as venues in Chicago, Phoenix and San Francisco. Currently at work on a large commission for a new hospital in California, he took a break to tell us about his unusual profession.

How did you come to have 'mosaic artist' on your CV?

I was always into art. I didn't discover mosaics until after I left art college. I started work painting murals, and then at that point I discovered mosaics, basically because I was looking for a more permanent medium.

So what's meant by mosaic arts?

The Italians call it painting for eternity. My main medium for floors is unglazed ceramics, a really hardwearing material. The ones that I use come from France. In addition to that for interiors I'd use marble, and then in wall surfaces you start looking at glass. The glass I use is handmade Italian, the same stuff used in St Mark's in Venice.

What kind of statement do you aim to make through your creations?

A lot of my work tends to be trying to reintroduce a feeling of local identity. Because of the way places have developed, all high streets look the same now. It's all the same shops. You can't tell whether you're in Gloucester or Bristol or wherever. Ninety-eight percent of my work is for public clients – local authorities, hospitals, parks, town centres.

That sounds like a tall order; where do you start?

The very first step is always looking at the site. I usually visit the place and talk to people, do a little bit of research about the local history. And then I'll just sit down with a blank sheet of paper and colouring pencils. I work very slowly. I need about three months to do the average job.

You recently completed a $250,000 commission to create two spectacular feature mosaics. Tell us about that…

The biggest project I've ever done was the one I just finished for the University of Iowa. The main mosaic was 50ft long and 15ft wide. That was a floor, so it's mostly ceramic but it did have glass highlights to make it sparkle. The average size piece was 20mm by 10mm, and every single one was cut by hand and stuck down by hand. It was actually made here in the studio in Woolwich. We always make the whole thing just glued onto paper and then when it's finished it's cut into sections like jigsaw pieces. All the work's done here.

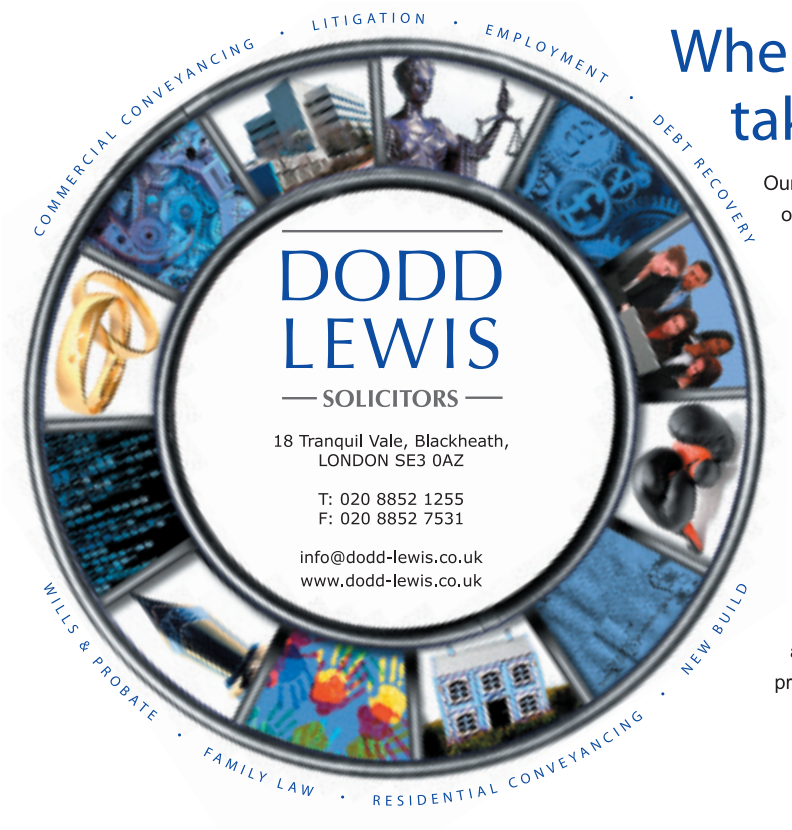
Where is your workshop?

My studio was in the middle of Greenwich but I've moved to the new studio complex in Woolwich, Second Floor Studios. I've got a really nice space. It's an old Victorian warehouse with a whole community of 100 artists here.

What would your dream commission be?

I'm waiting to do something in Woolwich. I'm very interested in the history, I think it's fascinating. I feel I'm working my way around the whole world to get back to Woolwich! ●

See www.drostle.com



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NEWS*flash*

Lee Cheshire rounds up this month's local news and views

Cutty Sark Gardens to be redeveloped… again

Greenwich Council has approved plans to overhaul the area surrounding the Cutty Sark. The riverside square will be planted with trees, the steps will be taken out to make it more pedestrian and wheelchair friendly, and a water feature will ebb and flow in conjunction with the tides. The designs, by Dutch firm OKRA, aim to make the area less bleak and windswept. However, some locals have questioned the need to redevelop the area for the second time in just over a decade. The council say they have money for the scheme because Greenwich is one of the host boroughs for the 2012 Olympics. The work is expected to be completed in time for the games. Meanwhile, new designs for the Cutty Sark have been unveiled. The glass bubble, which was to encase the lower half of the ship providing space for functions and exhibitions, has been replaced with a simpler affair. However, reaction has been negative, with commentators on a local blog, www.thegreenwichphantom.co.uk, comparing it to a greenhouse.

© WILL STRANGE

Second time for Squeeze

A plaque celebrating local band Squeeze is to be put up for the second time at the Borough Halls, close to Greenwich Station. It was originally unveiled in March but had to be removed because planning permission hadn't been acquired. It marks the spot where Squeeze had their first gig in 1975.

Toy Clipper

If you've forgotten what the Cutty Sark looks like, then check out the above picture. This scale model of the ship is made entirely from Lego. It uses 10,000 bricks and the only non-standard parts are the rigging and sails. Henrik Hoexbroe spent two months building the replica, using photos he found on the internet. Born in Denmark and currently living in Spain, the 43-year-old built the model for a fan convention. At 1:50 scale, it's just the right size for the Lego sailors. "The Cutty Sark had been on my mind for quite some time, but I've not had the ability or bricks to do it until now," says Hoexbroe. "Unfortunately I have never seen the ship myself in real life. Actually I didn't even know it had burned down in 2007, which was quite a shock. So I am very happy to hear that the restoration is well underway."

See more of his work at www.mocpages.com/home.php/19323

Library lifeline

Last month, Lewisham Council invited organisations and community groups to submit proposals for the future of five local libraries, including that in Blackheath Village.The libraries were earmarked for closure as the council attempts to deal with government cuts. However, Steve Bullock, the mayor of Lewisham, has deferred a decision until it can be seen whether anyone can be found to take over the buildings and services. Local residents' group, the Blackheath Village Library Users Group, expressed scepticism that the idea would work: "We find it difficult to see how the library could be run using volunteers without any support from Lewisham council," said group chair Gillian Gadsby.

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The Overcoat

Until 29 January

Critically acclaimed theatre company Assembly Point Productions presents the world premiere of Howard Colyer's adaptation of *The Overcoat*. First published in 1842, Gogol's classic tells the tale of a penniless, aging clerk in an unknown government department of St Petersburg. His desperate struggle with poverty in a society defined by possessions is fitting with the economic climate. Gogol, with his scathing realism and philosophical depth, is still considered one of the greatest ever satirists. 8pm. £10, £8 concs.

410 Brockley Road SE4 2DH
0844 847 2454; www.brockleyjack.co.uk

Eltham Palace bridal open day

19 February

Looking for a fairytale location for your wedding day? Take a look around the prestigious Eltham Palace & Gardens, an art deco mansion, medieval great hall and stunning grounds that can be hired for civil ceremonies and dinners for up to 200, and standing receptions for up to 300 guests. Experts from the English Heritage Hospitality team and a selection of the palace's top quality accredited suppliers will be on hand for advice. Highlights include a champagne and menu tasting, make-up trials and bridal wear and floristry displays. 11am-4pm.

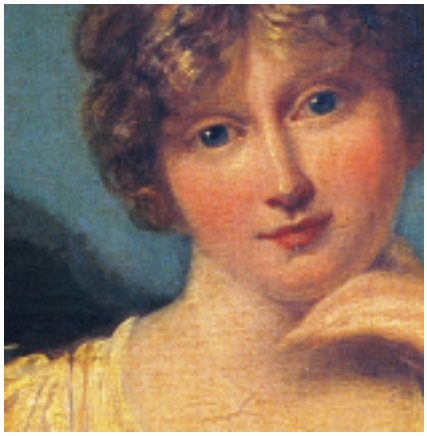
For further information call Sarah Horseman on 020 8294 2577 or see www.english-heritage.org.uk/hospitality

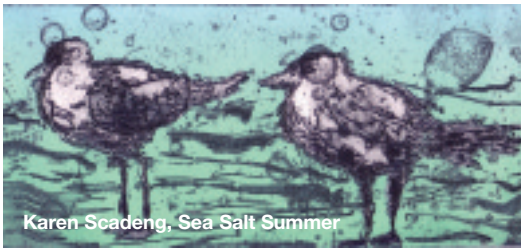
The Unruly Queen: Caroline of Brunswick

6 February

The Friends of Greenwich Park have invited Flora Fraser, best-selling historical biographer and international speaker, to give this year's annual lecture on Caroline of Brunswick. The estranged wife of the Prince Regent lived in Montague House on the edge of the park. In her compelling book, *The Unruly Queen*, she tells how the disastrous marriage led to profound and difficult consequences and the eventual trial of Caroline for adultery. 11am. Tickets £10 from Friends of Greenwich Park (3 Orchard Drive SE3 0QP, call 020 8852 8831) or on the door from 10.30am.

King William Lecture Theatre, King William Building
The Royal Naval College SE10 9LW




Karen Scadeng, Sea Salt Summer

Greenwich Printmakers Second Edition

Until 27 Feb

Following a popular exhibition of prints celebrating their 30th anniversary in 2009, Greenwich Printmakers return to the National Theatre's Olivier Gallery with a new exhibition, *Second Edition*. Varied themes and imagery – in a mix of etchings, linocuts, screen prints, lithographs and collographs – illustrate the different techniques available to printmakers and provide some exciting viewing at affordable prices. Free.

South Bank SE1 9PX; 020 7452 3400; www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

Love in a Mist

8-27 Feb

Love in a Mist at the Fan Museum celebrates love in all its aspects. Biblical fans illustrate those beautiful words of the Old Testament when Jacob first met Rachel – she was coming to water her father's sheep at the well, and there "he kissed Rachel, and was moved to tears". Eros (the god of love), Aphrodite (the goddess of love), beauty, hearts and flowers all have their place among this collection of fans promoting that universal feeling.

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A Conversation with Cupid

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The Gaucho International Polo Team. From left to right: Adolfo Casabal, Chris Hyde, Jamie Le Hardy and Roddy Matthews

THE SWING SET

As polo comes to the ●2, Shannon Denny prepares to mount up and score

In my mind's eye, I envisage polo to involve any number of the following elements: thundering hooves, champagne, kitten-heeled ladies, divots of spiky green grass, strong Argentine thighs barely contained by jaunty white jeans.

The reality, I'm finding in my first foray into the sport, is something else entirely. To start, on the wintery November day I venture to the Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club, snow is falling and the temperature is below zero. Kitten heels are out of the question and the situation calls more for hot mugs of Horlick's than chilled flutes of Veuve Clicquot.

>>>

<<<

Anyway, I'm here not for the summertime version of the sport of kings, but instead to capture the flavour of the emerging wintertime sport of arena polo. While field polo is played by two teams of four on an outdoor expanse ten times the size of a football pitch, its indoor cousin is played on a reduced pitch and with only three per side.

On 24 February, the O2 will be transformed into an international polo arena for a brand-new gladiatorial contest known as The Gaucho International Polo. Three world-class matches will take place, culminating in the historic grudge match for the Churchill Cup between EFG's England and Camino Real's Argentina. These professional riders will compete on an all-weather pitch, and so with my helmet hugging my skull and toes nearly frozen in leather boots, I take to a similar all-weather surface at The Berkshire.

With tighter physical boundaries and a roof above to capture the noise of the crowd, the hooves and the thwack of mallet on ball, arena polo literally condenses the excitement and pace of a sport dating back to sixth century BC Persia. There's no roof above our arena, and Persia is far from my mind when my frosty fingers reluctantly learn how to grip a mallet.

Irishman Eddie Kennedy is a coach with Cool Hooves, the training outfit tasked with turning me into a contender. He cajoles me to clamber upon a wooden 'horse' designed for schooling beginners. I stand astride an icy horizontal beam that roughly correlates to a horse's back while platforms below stand in for stirrups.

"It really is a task for women," he warns. "Lots of multitasking!" For 10 minutes he guides me in the basics – how to stand up in the stirrups while squatting a bit lower to reach the ground with the mallet; how to keep my eye on the small orange football I'm meant to be hitting; how to swing properly whereby gravity takes over the mallet head so it drops and connects to send the ball sailing.

After a few successes, I start to envisage a shiny trophy that will no doubt shortly sit on the mantelpiece of my south London flat. This image fades, however, when I am introduced to a four-legged friend called Marianna. I realise that to hit a small ball while riding Marianna could be tricky. Quickly I do the calculations: one moving round object plus one moving half-ton of horseflesh plus one moving mallet plus one cold and inept rider… equals a slim likelihood of future trophydom.

For 30 minutes Marianna and I have a whale of a time trotting, cantering, turning and stopping on a dime. We weave in and out of

The intrepid Shannon Denny finds her stride

Argentina captain Nacho Figueras

The Gaucho International Polo Team

cones while I adjust to holding all the reins in one hand like a cowboy. Sadly, the careless gallivanting does not last; Eddie announces it's time for our 'stick and ball' session – which means my free hand now takes hold of a mallet again and Marianna and I are supposed to run around after balls while I swing at them. This proves nearly impossible.

According to Eddie, in a match horses might travel at 35mph and balls at 100mph. My pony I think by this stage has lost interest, so our maximum speed is probably closer to 3mph while the balls remain largely stationary. I feel as though I am playing golf balanced on a Swiss ball while steering a jet ski with one hand.

Eddie perseveres, dividing us into teams for a 10-minute chukka. By now Marianna has realised I am a bit of a lost cause and therefore decides I am not worth a gallop; she trots towards the action but won't accelerate to a higher gear in spite of my pleading. One teammate clearly knows what she's on about though, and puts one ball after another into the goal. There are mad scrambles at both ends, lots of bumping, some bumbling after the ball and peals of hysterical laughter.

After 'our' invigorating victory, we recover our senses in the clubhouse, which is, of course, tricked out with honour boards, a cracking fire, several dogs and a bar. Jamie Morrison, chairman of The Berkshire, is there to greet us. "It's just a unique, fantastic, exciting sport," he says. "There's nothing like it, the fact that the animals allow us to do it, the skill involved. I mean I don't need to drive a fast car – when you play polo you don't need to, you get all the adrenaline and excitement you need."

If all goes according to plan, he'll be competing for England at The Gaucho International Polo, which is just as well because I've decided – thighs now starting to scream with ache – that competing in the sport of kings is something I'd best leave to the professionals. ●

For tickets to The Gaucho International Polo event at the O2 call 0844 277 4321 or see www.ticketmaster.com

Win tickets to see The Gaucho International Polo live at the O2!

The Gaucho International Polo, together with *The Guide*, is offering two pairs of general admission tickets, worth £25 each, to see the action live on Thursday 24 February. The event, a celebration of polo's growing popularity, will feature a mixture of sporting entertainment, corporate hospitality, live music, food and drink stalls and a luxury retail village – as well as 'have-a-go-polo' for all that want to try their hand at the legendary sport.

Gates open at 3pm with access to the retail village and entertainment for all. The first match kicks off at 5pm – perfect for those much needed post-work drinks. Of course, no polo tournament is complete without a players' after-party, to be held at one of the exclusive 2,500-capacity clubs within the O2.

To be in with a chance to win, simply answer the following question: Name one of the four international teams who will be taking part in this year's Gaucho International Polo Tournament. Send your answer along with your name, address and daytime telephone number (or email address) to The Guide Competition, Archant Life, 5th Floor Avon House, Kensington Village W14 8TS, or enter online at theguide.greatbritishlife.co.uk. One entry per person. Final date for entry 10 Feb. Winners will be notified at least one week prior to the event by phone or email.

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In stitches

Oska's spring/summer 2011 collection has been designed with clear simple shapes, the emphasis on elegant clothing with a quirky edge in a fresh colour palette of soft pastel tones. While stripes come in various styles from classic two-colour combinations to modern multi stripes, this season's signature piece is the harem pants with fluid lines.
Available from Stitches & Daughters 3 Greenwich South Street SE10 8NW 020 8035 1396

Shop front

Shannon Denny discovers tempting treats around the local shops

The buzz

HIVE is an award-winning design studio based in New Cross, headed up by the internationally acclaimed designer and artist Monika Piatkowski. Founded in 1998, the studio works on specially commissioned projects, interior and exterior design, consultancy and on the creation of its own products – such as the covetable Twig hanging system. Small hanger £25, large £45.
Call 020 8692 0219 or see www.hivespace.com

Bite size

Thorntons Chocolate Blocks are now available as small but perfectly formed mini treats. Available in eight tasty flavours – fudge, toffee or Belgian milk blocks, mint, ginger, chilli or French dark chocolate versions, and a creamy white Mini Block – they are made from the finest single-origin chocolate from plantations in Togo, Papua New Guinea and Mexico. 69p each.
Surrey Quays Shopping Centre SE16 7LL 020 7394 0284; www.thorntons.co.uk

Hold in one

Designed by Emily Cheetham, Cheet London has become known for its feminine and functional designs since launching in 2003. Signature knot detailing and vintage inspirations form the basis of the current collection, which includes the Hepburn Twist shoulder bag. An acrylic chain and turn-lock hardware, set off with the twisted leather handle inject your look with retrospective glamour.
Kate Kuba, Cabot Place E14 4QT 020 7715 5303

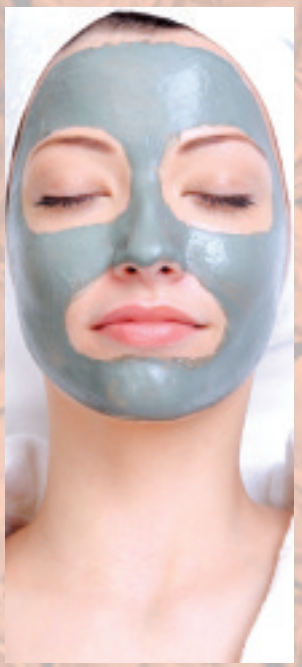
Love me do

Locally inspired treats and gift inspiration for Valentine's Day

RAMADA HOTEL AND SUITES

Built in a dramatic waterfront location in the London Docklands, the Ramada Hotel and Suites provides excellent guest care and facilities in a stunning new contemporary development. This four-star hotel has a stunning waterfront position offering comfortable accommodation and superb cuisine in a welcoming atmosphere.

2 Festoon Way
Royal Victoria Dock E16 1RH
020 7540 4820; reservations@ramadadocklands.co.uk



NEROLI

Take solace from the winter and indulge in luxurious pampering with Neroli's fabulous three for two offer on treatments.
Why not take this opportunity to try something new and create your own unique package?
Treatments may be taken as one appointment or three individual appointments, the first of which must be taken in January.
See the website for treatments and prices.

Open 7 days with late nights till 9pm Tues-Thurs
43 Honor Oak Park
SE23 1DZ; 020 8699 9496
www.neroli-skincare.co.uk

THE NORTH POLE

Get ready for a whole weekend of treats at The Pole. On Friday 11 and Saturday 12 February, you and your significant other can enjoy a three-course set menu with bubbly and free entry to bar and club for £26.95 per head. On Sunday 13 February, for £19.95 per head, you can enjoy a three-course menu with bubbly (inc. a roast option) and live music in the bar. Then, on Monday 14 February, indulge in a four-course sumptuous feast with champagne for only £35.95 per head! Every night will have the fantastic resident pianist playing to set the mood. Roses, flowers, champagne and chocolates can be pre-arranged.

131 Greenwich High Road SE10 8JA
020 8853 3020; www.northpolegreenwich.co.uk

DOG KNOWS PUPPY SCHOOL

Our bond with dogs was established millions of years ago and it has evolved into the utter devotion we feel for our pet dogs today. We form such special relationships with our dogs that it seems only right that we think about them on Valentine's Day too! Why not take your dog somewhere new and enjoy an adventure together? Dog Knows provides professional canine services – dog knowledge and know-how at its best!

www.dogknows.co.uk
07867 507 774

MOGUL

This Valentine's Day, think of Mogul for good food, fine wines and cold beers. Famous for its top-quality Indian cuisine, the Greenwich restaurant is popular with locals and tourists alike. Visit the first-floor lounge bar, where you can relax with drinks before dinner. Think 14 February: think Mogul. Also available for parties.

10 Greenwich Church Street SE10 9BJ
020 8858 6790 / 020 8858 1500
www.mogulindian.co.uk

gallery136

hither green – london 020 8297 2600 & tonbridge – kent 01622 870100

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see website for details

www.gallery136.com

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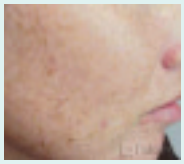
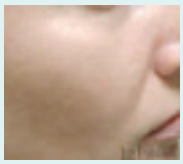
Dr Deborah McManners, Medical Aesthetics, Blackheath Hospital



Before



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Musculoskeletal
Physiotherapist

...my professional interest lies in Women's Health, both pre and post natal care with a special interest in pelvic floor dysfunction & incontinence...

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Musculoskeletal
Physiotherapist

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Physio MCSP
Musculoskeletal
Physiotherapist

....as a keen runner I enjoy treating lower limb problems - knee pain, foot & ankle problems....

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Natural beauty

So Organic founder **Samantha Burlton** guides us out of the dark depths of deepest winter with her top four ways to feel fabulous again – naturally

Get fit in the fresh air

Forget being trapped indoors by the beastly winter weather, and head to the great outdoors to get some exercise that will put a glow in your cheeks and a spring in your step. Penelope Fitstar's team of fantastic female trainers offer fitness classes just for women in Blackheath, Greenwich and Bromley. Open-air bootcamp sessions are just £5, personal training starts from £38 and safe, effective pregnancy sessions are also available.

Call 07787 432 230 or see www.penelopefitstar.com for further information

Change your hair

Nothing gives you that 'brand new you' feeling like a fabulous new hair cut. Mickey and Chris at Blackheath Hair Studio have been creating beautiful hair days from their friendly salon in Blackheath Village for over 10 years. They have restored my hair after the occasional rash visit to an inferior salon and are always brilliant at updating a look to give a fresh new feel. Some of the products they use contain organic ingredients, too. Ladies cut and blow dry from £37.

26 Montpelier Vale SE3 0TA; 020 8318 4043

Give your make-up bag a makeover

Start with a clean slate and grab yourself a gorgeous new make-up bag from Sophia and Matt who have recently moved from Greenwich Market into a beautiful new store on Greenwich Church Street. I've been using one of their small wash bags (£12) for my make up for at least two years and it still looks good as new.

28 Greenwich Church Street SE10 9BJ; 020 8858 7732 www.sophiaandmatt.co.uk

Sort out your skincare

If you've used the same skincare for years, it could be time to take another look at your routine. Our skin changes all the time, the weather, our diet and the stresses and strains of everyday life all take their toll. It's important to use products that suit what your skin needs right now, to ensure the best possible result and fabulous-looking skin. Visit our organic skincare specialists at So Organic and save £25 off a bespoke facial this month. Our therapists will tailor a facial to suit your skin perfectly and you'll leave feeling radiant and renewed. Bespoke facial £50 throughout February (usually £75).

22 Nelson Road SE10 9JB. To book call 0800 169 2579 or see www.soorganic.com

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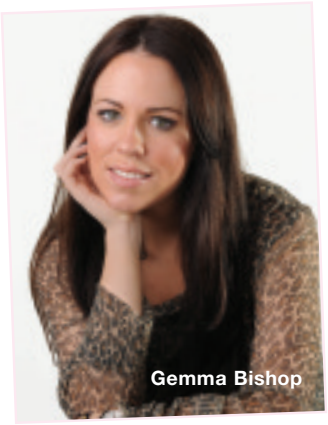
Accessorise all areas

Having launched her accessories line just over a year ago, Sidcup resident Gemma Bishop has already been crowned hottest new designer on the block by *Marie Claire*…

What initially inspired you to get into fashion?
I've always wanted to be a fashion designer, ever since I was little. I was always creative as a child, focusing on dance, art and textiles. I couldn't think of myself in any other career. So I did a BTEC at London College of Fashion and then studied at KIAD in Kent [now the University for the Creative Arts].

When and why did you decide to specialise in accessories?
When I left university, after internships with D&G and Felder Felder, I went to work as an accessories designer at Hobbs. I would create the mood boards for the collections, which was so inspiring. But I didn't feel it was going in the direction I wanted it to, I just felt like I wasn't Hobbs, so I decided to start my own collection.

How would you describe your style?
Quirky and individual, but still really wearable. They are fresh – I love using colour and focusing on different fabrics. There is nothing really out there like my designs – really cute pieces that are handmade but still affordable. We are in a recession, after all.


Gemma Bishop

Where do you begin with a new collection?
Usually I'm inspired by art, or someone wearing something on the streets, and I'll start looking at the colours and build a colour palette. Then I go and look for materials and start making and experimenting. Eventually it comes down to a few key pieces that look really good, and I will try to bring them all together into a collection.

Tell us about your SS11 collection…
I've focused on quite a few sharp, key colours but with a touch of tan and neutral shades. There is also a bit of colour blocking – green, fuchsia, sky blue – creating a fresh and perky feel. I introduced animal prints too – the leopard-print trend is still going strong on the catwalks – and I always use buttons, I love vintage buttons! And I found some beautiful trims in Greenwich Market, they have gorgeous laces in soft pastel colours.

Marie Claire crowned you the "hottest new accessory designer on the block" – how did that make you feel?
It made me cry! I sent in some pieces and they featured them in the A-Z of SS10 accessories, next to brands like Pucci and D&G. It was the March issue, the issue you should really be in for fashion, and it just blew me away – I'd only been selling my collection for two months. I was in *Grazia*'s fashion chart in November, too, where any designer wants to be, that was amazing.

Any plans to design clothes?
I am a trained clothes designer – my final collection at university was inspired by the 60s and I made my own prints. I'd love to get back into it, maybe do swimwear – I love the aesthetic, the cut, the shape and the prints. Men's accessories are also on the cards for AW11.

And finally, what are your ambitions in the industry?
I'd love a little shop eventually, with a bespoke bit in the back. I would like to be in south east London, but not too far from the centre, somewhere like Dulwich, maybe, where the clientele can walk to you. I'm going to give myself a two-year plan to get there... ●

Above: leopard-print Phoebe Rouge bangle £25 and Phoebe leopard-print headband £26. Top: Candi-stripe Alexia bangle £22; rose Alice bangle £25; nude/soft salmon Luka bangle £25

PHOTOGRAPHY BY COLIN CRISFORD

Gemma Bishop London is stocked at Davina Boutique, 49 High Street BR7 5AF (020 8467 9531) and 149 High Street BR1 1JD (020 8290 5913), and online at www.gemmabishoplondon.com

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You may not know us, we're a cosy little boutique salon tucked away in a quiet corner of Blackheath. We would like to get to know you better, so come and pop round for some tea and home-made biscuits (oh, and maybe get a haircut too).

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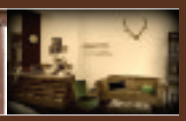

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Spring FEVER

As spring/summer 2011 collections begine to arrive at a boutique near you, The Guide takes a look at what's in store

Find your own distinctive style at Belle

←

Local writer Rosie Furber was spotted wearing Belle's own label cashmere coat teamed with eclectic blue Belle accessories. To complete the outfit Rosie carries the Pavoni K bag. Be sure to get to Belle to create your own individual and unique style.

20 College Approach SE10 9HY
020 8465 5777
www.bellefashion.co.uk

Discover worldwide brands exclusive to Babanya

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→

Stitches & Daughters SS11 collection, sees a new wave of simple shapes inspired by catwalk trends. Choose brands like Oska and Elemente Clemente for an unostentatious, unique look. This spring heralds an optimistic return to a brighter wardrobe, and at Stitches & Daughters you will be able to embrace colour with this beautiful range of clothes for real women.

3 Greenwich South Street
SE10 8NW
020 8305 1396
www.stitchesanddaughters.com

↑

Babanya specialises in offering a unique style and experience for women who enjoy versatility and diversity from their wardrobe. You will be spoilt for choice with the worldwide brands that are exclusive to Babanya, and Lucinda and her team will ensure an enjoyable and personal shopping experience.

7 Nelson Road SE10 9JB; 020 8293 1600
www.babanyatheshop.com

Join the colour revolution…

↑ The main chatter on the fashion grapevine for SS11 is the return of the 1970s and bright, bold colours. Wear super-flared jeans and chunky stacked heels to step into the fashion time warp. Alternatively join the colour revolution selecting from a palette that includes cobalt blue, neon pink and sunset orange applied to dresses, bags, shoes, blouses and just about everything.

020 8691 5515; www.bespokeshoppers.com

Catwalk glamour, the natural way

↑ Beautiful bright lips were all over the catwalks for SS11, with red and orange being the shades of choice – try Dr Hauschka Lipstick 01 Soft Coral (£18.75). To make eyes the main feature use bold colours like the Eco Eye Trio Aqua by Green People (£17.99). A brown mascara keeps eyes highlighted but spring soft – try Lavera Volume Mascara 02 Brown (£10.90).

22 Nelson Road SE10 9JB; 020 8465 5600
www.soorganic.com

← Since arriving at the Beehive on Creek Road, Greenwich, just over a year ago, the shop has become a mecca for the discerning vintage enthusiast. UMI & Co Vintage offers a perfectly edited selection of clothing, accessories, homeware and furniture, and is now stocking vintage-inspired labels including Freddie's of Pinewood, What Katie Did Next and Vivien of Holloway.

320-322 Creek Road
SE10 9SW; 020 8858 1964
enquiries@umiandco.com
www.umiandco.com

An exquisite range of handcrafted jewellery

← The range includes pieces inspired by traditional Tibetan designs and limited edition contemporary jewellery, all made from semi-precious gemstones and silver beads. Gorgeous gemstones include turquoise, coral and agate from Tibet, jade, pearls and serpentine from China, and Mongolian jet. Beautifully finished and presented, every piece makes a wonderfully original and special gift.

2 Greenwich Market SE10 9HZ
07780 852 239; info@daolondon.co.uk
www.daolondon.co.uk

← *All the seasons latest trends for women*

Fairies & Floozies

Head to Fairies and Floozies in East Dulwich, where they have all the seasons latest trends for women. Also selling bags, belts, jewels, hair accessories. The staff are welcoming and can offer you lots of help in the look you are after.

16 Melbourne Grove SE22 8QZ
020 8299 3939

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www.shampangroup.com

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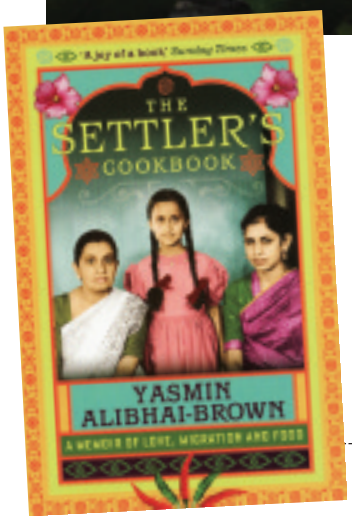
Soft touch

Sure, two litres of water a day is good for you (especially following the festive fallout), but it is rather dull. Punctuate the tedium, while keeping on the straight and narrow, with Luscombe's 100% natural soft drinks for grown ups. Free from any nasties, the only things that make it into the bottle are pure fruit and spring water. The collection of 16 drinks is even crafted to pair with food. Choose from fruit juices like Apple & Ginger or fruit drinks like Cranberry Crush and Wild Elderflower Bubbly. Large £3.65, small £1.75.
Available from The Cheeseboard 26 Royal Hill SE10 8RT; 020 8305 0401

Gourmet news

Culture, romance and a little fizz… February's top foodie finds



Voyage of discovery

The Museum of London Docklands hosts a talk, book signing and food tasting with author and journalist Yasmin Alibhai-Brown on 28 January. *Settler's Cookbook: A Memoir of Love, Migration and Food*, traces the long journey of the East African Indians through the story of Yasmin's family. Her heritage is reflected in the food she makes – from a shepherd's pie sprinkled with chilli, to a Victoria sponge enlivened by saffron and limejuice. 6.30-8pm. Fee £5 (concs £3), advanced booking required.
West India Quay E14 4AL; 020 7001 9844
www.museumindocklands.org.uk

Silky seduction

Satin roses and silky red ribbons… this box alone is seriously seductive. Inside Godiva Chocolatier's Romantic Heart boxes (priced £35-£70), a rich Belgian heritage and craftsmanship is manifested in decadent caramels, ganaches and pralines that will delight your beau. Godiva Chocolatier, which has been creating exceptional Belgian chocolate since 1926, has produced a limited-edition Valentine's collection that also includes a truffle gift box, collectable Godiva bear, and Gold Collection gift box.
Available from Selfridges, John Lewis or online at www.godiva.be. Call 020 7734 8113 for your nearest stockist

Naturally good

For a contemporary twist on the flowers-and-chocolates Valentine's gesture, give a Bonterra Rosé gift pack. It combines the fruity, floral Bonterra Rosé 2009, made with organic grapes, and Green & Black's organic chocolate. Luxury, natural ingredients, the wine's aroma of fresh strawberries, elderflower and cherry blossom, and both milk and white chocolate… that's a lot of romance in one little box. £10
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Guy Awford

For a Valentine's Day treat, serve up pan-fried sea bass with fondant potato, steamed carrots and leek veloute

The garnish for this dish is fairly straight forward, so it's the sea bass that needs to stand out. A neat, crisp skin, with moist flesh is what you are after. First, score the fillet by cutting three shallow slashes through the skin and just into the flesh. This will help to keep the fillet flat during cooking. The next step is to completely dry the skin, so it fries in the oil, rather than stewing in its own juices. Pat it dry with absorbent kitchen paper and then lay it onto a fresh piece of kitchen paper while you heat the pan.

How hot you get the pan depends on whether you have a non-stick pan or a cast iron pan. It's 2011, so I'll assume you have a non-stick pan. Heat the pan then add just enough oil to cover the base. Season the oil with fine salt then turn the heat to medium. Gently lay the fish into the pan, letting it fall away from you (in case any oil splashes out). Press down firmly with a fish slice. Cook for four minutes, until the skin becomes crisp and golden. Don't touch it; it needs time to form a crust.

Now turn the fish over, turn the heat to low and cook for two minutes. Your fish will be perfect – ideal for a romantic treat. ●

Ingredients (serves 2)

- 2 wild sea bass fillets – prepared as above
- 2 desiree potatoes
- ½ leek – washed and sliced
- 50ml cream
- 50g butter
- 4 sprigs thyme
- 1clove of garlic
- 1 carrot – cut into batons

Method

1 Peel and trim the potatoes to form two neat potato discs. Sauté until the potatoes turn golden brown. Turn and gingerly add a cup of water, a sprig of thyme and some smashed garlic. Top each potato with a knob of butter. Cover and cook on a low heat until the potatoes are cooked through (about 20 minutes). Keep warm.
2 Cook the leek in a covered pot with a large knob of butter until soft. Add the cream. Bring to the boil then liquidise. Season.
3 Steam some carrot batons until cooked.
4 Cook the fish and serve with the garnish vegetables and sauce.

Theatre of Wine's Daniel Illsley selects the perfect accompanying tipple

I recommend a Stadt Krems Gruner Veltliner Lossterrassen 2009 from Austria (£10). Gruner is the sexiest white grape around at the moment, and is beloved of sommeliers the world over. A speciality of central Europe, it combines body with bite; flavours of grapefruit and yellow plum plus an ethereal hit of white pepper on the finish. Fabulously versatile with food, this will be an exciting combination that will enhance sea bass but never swamp it. For more information about this forward-thinking state winery check out www.weingutstadtkrems.at

Available from Theatre of Wine, Slurp, The Wine Society and Robersons

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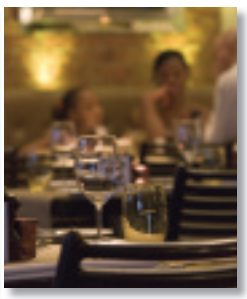

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With its blend of informality and Continental café chic, Chapters really is an all day affair. The well-priced menu runs from breakfast to dinner and includes a great brunch option at weekends. Dishes range run from the reassuringly familiar to flavoursome, melt-in-your-mouth steaks that have been skillfully grilled to perfection on a specially imported Josper oven, the only way to cook a steak properly.

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EPICURE

Victoria Purcell welcomes in the Year of the Rabbit at Royal China

Royal China
30 West Ferry Circus E14 8RR; 020 7719 0888

New Year means new beginnings. Well, so the theory goes… In practice, those resolutions fall by the wayside before you can say 'hold the cream'. But let's not be hard on ourselves, for on 3 February it is Chinese New Year, and we get a second chance. It is said that those born in the Year of Rabbit are talented and ambitious, which certainly applies to the team behind Royal China. With six restaurants in London, 20 globally, Royal China is known for balancing contemporary dining with authentic Cantonese cuisine.

The Canary Wharf branch shares the elegant décor of its sister branches – striking reds and blacks, details picked out in gold, and ornate, lacquered murals – but trumps them in terms of location. It sits riverside, which means great views across the Thames by chilly night, and terraces by glorious, sunny day. But I do have one minor gripe – the menu. It is pretty lengthy, which is not in itself a huge problem, but it is heavy and awkward to browse. And since every single dish listed sounds absolutely fabulous, you are required to do a fair bit of flicking back and forth as you struggle to narrow down the 15 dishes you yearn for, to a more socially acceptable three or four (maybe five…).

We commenced feasting with a deep-fried soft-shell crab with spicy salt, mixed seafood soup and, feeling adventurous, sliced preserved pork knuckle with jelly fish. All wonderful, even the latter (knuckle rarely features on my foodie wish list, but thinly sliced, the balance of meat with a trim of gelatinous fat is delicious – an indelicate delicacy). The main event was a fresh, fleshy, sautéed scallop with baby asparagus and a spicy, tender and flavoursome Mandarin fillet steak, with sides of sautéed Chinese broccoli with ginger, ma poh tofu with beef (a typically hot Szechuan Chinese ground beef dish), and egg fried rice.

Each dish, beautifully presented and swiftly served by efficient, friendly staff, was utterly delightful. And to drink? Tsing Tao for me, but there is a healthy choice of wine and cocktails, too. Happy New Year! ●

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The brasserie theme extends from a menu that includes such classic fare as Steak Tartare and Moules Frites through to the interior design. Despite its cosy and intimate home from home feel, Tompkins can comfortably accommodate up to 400 guests, making it ideal for all types of private and corporate events.

Tompkins also offers a wide selection of catering options to suit all budgets.

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There is no greater setting than being high in the sky with city views all around you. At Pan Peninsula, you'll find the ultimate high-rise cocktail bar Attic on the Penthouse level, exclusive to residents, their guests and those eating in the ground floor restaurant. A cocktail at Attic is a truly unique experience.

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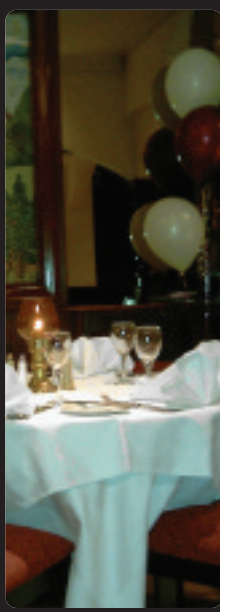

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Family matters

Creative pursuits to keep your little tykes out of trouble

Sew talented

Sewing is one of those valuable life skills that seem to have fallen by the wayside. St Martins-trained haute couture designer Francisca 'Cilene' Jenkins has made it her mission to revive this skill with relaxed, friendly dressmaking classes for both kids and adults. Not only is it wonderful fun for the kids to embark on their very own spring/summer collection of clothes and accessories, it chimes with the times both environmentally and financially. The next seven-week course for kids (age 6+) commences 28 February and costs £8 per hour (payable each half term in advance). Times vary, see the website for further details.

Stark Gallery, 386 Lee High Road SE12 8RW
www.schooloffrock.com

A woolly encounter…

The 2010 BAFTA and EMMY award-winning BBC family favourite, *Shaun the Sheep*, makes his stage debut in a brand new live production. Shaun is stage-struck and has decided to put on a very special show for all his friends; there will be some madcap mayhem ahead as they dance and prance their way through a series of adventures under the nose of the short-sighted Farmer. The national tour of *Shaun's Big Show*, adapted by the National Children's Dramatist, David Wood, stops off at the Churchill Theatre in Bromley from 25-27 February.

High Street, Bromley BR1 1HA
0844 871 7615
www.ambassadortickets.com/The-Churchill

Art attack

The Lewisham Arthouse launches an exciting, 10-week, studio-based arts course for young people aged 8-12 on 25 January. An introduction to drawing and painting for young people provides a comprehensive introduction to 2D fine and applied arts. Young people are taught within a small, informal and friendly group, and are provided with an opportunity to develop their artistic talent. The course is taught by Alison Day, an experienced tutor, former youth worker and practicing artist. No previous experience needed. Tuesdays 4.30-6pm. Pre-enrolment essential.

140 Lewisham Way SE14 6PD. For an application form and further enquiries, call Alison Day on 020 8694 9011 or email alison.day10@yahoo.com

SCHOOL NEWS

Edmund Cavendish has been appointed Master of the Junior School at Eltham College. Mr Cavendish has been with Eltham College since 2005 as Senior School deputy headmaster and history teacher. He became Acting Master of the Junior School at the end of the summer term and took up the new post at the beginning of the spring term. Mr Cavendish said: "This new role is tremendously exciting for me and I am looking forward to leading the Junior School throughout the next stages of its development."

On the last day of autumn term, the walls of Eltham Hill Technology College reverberated to the sound of 1,200 drums. In celebration of the signing of a contract to rebuild the school, funded by the government's Building Schools for the Future programme, staff and students sounded a rhythm to 'drum out the old and drum in the new'. The project, which got underway in January and is expected to be finished in summer 2013, involves the construction of three new buildings and a full refurb of the original 1920s school on the site.

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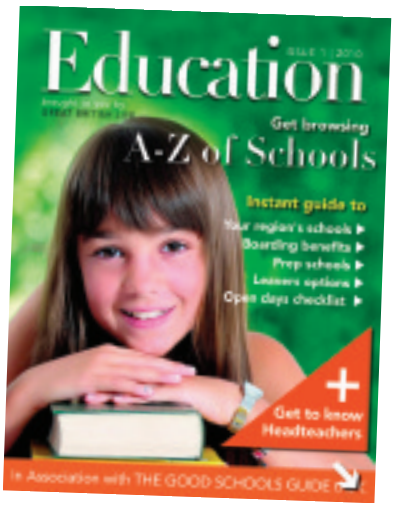

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Catford calling

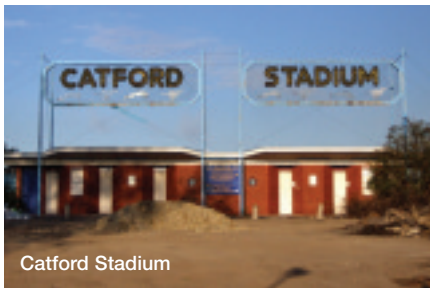
Seeking pastures new? According to writer, photographer and Catford resident Mark Davidson, SE6 is an area on the rise

Catford and the surrounding district can certainly lay claim to being an up-and-coming area. In the last few years this part of south east London has worked hard to become more desirable to those who want to live in the capital, especially those who can't afford the cost of living associated with the more affluent parts of the metropolis.

Waterline, a tubular blue steel sculpture by artist Oliver Barratt

The Catford Cat perches above the Catford Centre

The Broadway Theatre



Catford Stadium

IMAGES MARK DAVIDSON

Firmly embedded within its past is the now-closed, yet historic, greyhound track. Open from 1926 to 2003, it was popular with many spectators and gamblers across the area. However, the stadium has now been demolished for new housing to be built, although the sign that once welcomed spectators to the track will remain, due to its listed status.

With plans for the Docklands Light Railway to be extended to Catford in the next decade or so, it will eventually enable many workers to commute towards Canary Wharf or the City. In the meanwhile, a short bus ride will take you to the DLR at Lewisham, enabling easy transportation to the Olympic site at Stratford when the games take place in 2012.

The most prominent building is the Broadway Theatre in the heart of the town. Built in 1932, the Art Deco auditorium has a glorious past with acts such as Roy Orbison, Morcambe & Wise, Tommy Cooper, Elkie Brookes and many others having appeared on its historic stage. During the Christmas period, however, it is taken over by panto, which this year was *Beauty and the Beast* with Michelle Gayle.

Each year, a festival with live music and games is held on the nearby Blythe Hill Fields – a park with amazing views over London and Kent. The free show attracts more than 1,000 visitors and the aim is to encourage local residents to use and enjoy local parks and the amenities more often.

There are plenty of cafe bars and modern-art designs in the area to dispel the myth that many areas of London are dreary places to live. Waterline is a tubular blue steel sculpture designed by the artist Oliver Barratt. The distinctive feature, situated on the old site of the local Hippodrome and Eros cinema, is illuminated at night. At four meters tall and made of welded steel piping, it cost £45,000 to build and was completed in 2006.

Another landmark is the giant cat. Sitting high and mighty at the start of the walkway that leads into the local shopping centre, it is made out of fibreglass and keeps watch over the shoppers wandering below.

And if you like a drink, The Campaign for Real Ale's Catford Beer Festival ran succesfully for 15 years until 2007, when Greenwich stole it away, but the Blythe Hill Tavern remains in CAMRA's Inventory of London Pubs with Interiors of Special Historic Interest, so do pop in.

The area is not short of famous names – born in the borough were comedian Ben Elton and the heavyweight boxer Sir Henry Cooper, who famously left Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) on the seat of his pants during a boxing match at Wembley Stadium in 1963.

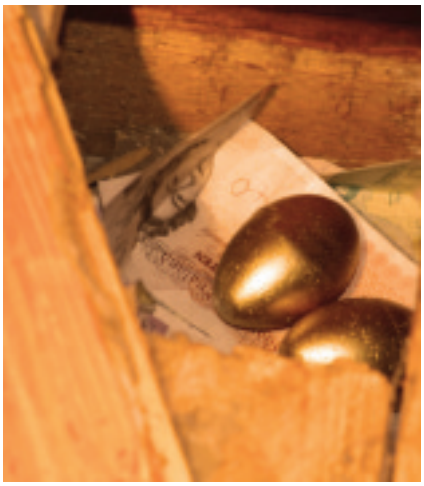
St Dunstan's College was originally founded in the 15th century in the Parish of St Dunstan-in-the-East, now part of the Tower Ward in the City of London. In 1446 King Henry VI declared the parish school to be one of the efficient schools of the city. The school was re-founded in 1888 on a greenfield site in Catford, but still maintains strong links with its previous location.

In the nearby park of Ladywell Fields, a £2 million grant from the London development agency is being utilised to rebuild parts of the bank side along the Ravensbourne river, which runs through the town, with the hope that more wildlife will take up residence. The work is due to be completed in April 2011. Further afield residents can see even more wildlife along the river – the area is surrounded by other distinct habitats like woodland and scrub. It is excellent for birdwatching throughout the year, and you will spot or hear five species of warbler during the summer months.

The Chap magazine satirised the place in a series called *A year in Catford*, after Peter Mayle's bestseller *A Year in Provence*, poking fun at SE6's supposed mundanity. But take another look at Catford – with new housing developments, oodles of greenspace, modern art, theatre, famous names and great transport links, Catford is certainly on the up. ●

Top five Catford facts

1 Catford gets its name from the place where wildcats crossed the River Ravensbourne in Saxon times.
2 Catford lays claim to be the home of the first British curry house, which opened in 1824.
3 Singer Cat Stevens, whose birth name was Steven Demetre Georgiou, and is now called Yusuf Islam, lived in a flat above a Catford furniture shop in the 60s.
4 The archbishop Desmond Tutu and the comedian Spike Milligan both used to live in Catford.
5 Catford's oldest pub is the Black Horse and Harrow (now called the Goose on the Green), which existed at least as early as 1700. Karl Marx is reputed to have been an occasional patron.



Will power

William Meakin, Consultant Solicitor at Grant Saw Solicitors LLP, on the importance of making a will

WE ARE FREQUENTLY BEING TOLD it is important to make a will, but this important task is so often and so easily put off. On intestacy (without making a will), the estate passes to the family in an order of precedence laid down by statute; only if there is no traceable family will the property revert to the Crown.

There are many instances when it really does not matter whether a will is made or not, for example, where a single parent dies leaving an adult child or children, in which case the estate devolves directly to the children in equal shares. If this is not exactly what the testator (will maker) wants, then they need to make a will.

A will should be made, and is of great importance, where:

- There are Inheritance Tax implications or the joint estate exceeds, say, £500,000
- There has been a divorce and there are infant children involved
- Parties are cohabiting without being married. There is no concept in succession law of a common law wife or husband
- There is an extended family
- Charities are to benefit

There are now options of cheap DIY wills on offer, but we see many examples of where these go wrong and result in unnecessary problems and anxiety. The fee for consulting a solicitor is well worth it to plan ahead and ensure peace of mind.

What is the law of intestate succession? For answers to this and other questions surrounding wills, the Wills and Probate Team at Grant Saw Solicitors LLP can assist.

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In the frame

So, you've got the camera you always wanted, now learn how to use it to its fullest potential, says Fergus Noone

Photography is an extremely rewarding medium and once you've understood the body of the camera and how it works, there is no limit to what kind of photo you can achieve. The first thing to grasp is the three main elements of photography; aperture, shutter speed and ISO. Aperture is the adjustment of the lens opening, which controls the amount of light passing through the lens, measured as an f-number. Shutter Speed controls the amount of time during which the imaging medium is exposed to light for each exposure, measured in fractions of a second. It controls a blurred image or freeze action. ISO for a traditional camera is the value set for the speed of the film inside. For the modern digital camera, it's the indication of the system's gain from light. The higher the ISO number, the more sensitive the camera is to light.

The balance of all three elements leads to a perfect exposed picture and by understanding the relationship of these elements, you may further your creativity within the shot. The photograph below of the Meantime clock was taken in December, just as the snow was falling. Because snow reflects light, you need a faster shutter speed. I set this to 1/160 of a second and the aperture to f8. Remember that the smaller the f-number, the wider the aperture opens up, so f8 is about in the middle. Keep the ISO at around 100 or 200 for midday shots and this will keep the image sharp. In darker light, set the ISO higher, from 400-800, particularly if you are experimenting with night photography.

A one-day tuition workshop with myself and Richard Riddick gives you practical experience to enhance your photography. We'll help you learn the technical and aesthetic components of photography as fine art. ●

Fergus Noone Photography, 9 College Approach SE10 9HY
020 8858 3309; www.fergusnoone.com

Inside track

Making your house a home…

Feel the heat

John Lewis of Hungerford's painted kitchen cabinetry is now officially the hardest wearing in the kitchen world. Across the range it is resistant to wet and dry heat and marking by liquids, oils and solvents, but the gloss and satin eggshell finishes have been awarded SATRA Technology Centre's highest rating, certifying the kitchens for 'severe usage'. So, from frantic family households to professional environments, you can rest assured a John Lewis of Hungerford kitchen will stand the test of time.

70 Tranquil Vale SE3 0BN
020 8318 6097; www.john-lewis.co.uk

Bathing Beauty

Braced for the VAT hike? Relax – not only is Beautiful Bathrooms holding back the VAT rise, the Kent-based company is paying all the VAT – the whole 20% – until the sale is over at the end of February. Head down to the showroom for a range of bathroom and shower suites from as little as £397. As well as computer-aided design technology, which shows you what your bathroom will look like before you buy, Beautiful Bathrooms also offers a full installation service with five-year workmanship guarantee.

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Be it vertical, Venetian, Roman or Velux blinds, shutters, blackout coverage for the nursery, or even awnings, you will find it at one of Tudor Touch's recently transformed showroom in Charlton. This year sees the company introduce radiator covers, too, designed using its distinctive plantation shutters, meaning you can close off the radiator during the warmer months with a product that complements your window dressings.

The new name encompasses the company's combination of expertise and personal service when it comes to achieving that perfect finishing touch for your home. The team at Tudor Touch is so passionate about their products that they road test them in their own homes, so that you can be confident they know each product inside out in terms of function, fit and durability.

What's more, the January sale runs until 13 February, so call into the showroom soon to take advantage of some great discounts across the range. You can also call to arrange for one of Tudor Touch's friendly surveyors to visit you at home for advice and a free consultation on the most suitable products for you.

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Forward THINKING

Jonathan Atkins of Minerva Antiques on the old, the new, and what to look forward to in 2011

With the December freeze and the spectacle of London's New Year's Eve fireworks a distant memory, we stumble on into February. Nobody knows what 2011 holds for us, but for us at Minerva, 2010 was surprisingly good.

Restoration and sales were both up on previous years, and to celebrate 10 years in Greenwich, we have just launched a new website. We have added a whole new lighting section and enlarged our contemporary armchair and sofa sections, which we hope will compete with our hugely popular mirror department that continues to go from strength to strength.

One of the greatest projects of the year was restoring a local resident's 1830s Sebastian Erard harp. Having traced the original purchase of the harp back to Dublin in 1833, we also learnt there had been only 2,800 ever made. It was in a terrible state of repair, but the restoration was successfully completed and I believe the woman is continuing with her lessons and hopes to be fully proficient in the instrument in a few years' time.

It looks as though 2011 will prove just as interesting. Being a local Greenwich resident, I was intrigued to learn that JP Morgan was relocating its entire European investment banking unit to Canary Wharf, bringing 8,000 staff (to whom I hope to sell lots of antique furnishings!) and the prospect of a vast new skyscraper to the docklands. This can only be good news for the area, especially in terms of property prices.

Lastly, don't think of the Olympics as a nuisance – think of it as a rental opportunity! Several of my friends have called the Greenwich Tourist Board and been told there is nowhere to stay during the Olympics. A little research suggests family houses are renting for as much as £8,000 a week during peak periods of the games. The most important aspect of this appears to be timing – those in the know tip closing an early deal before the last quarter of 2011.

I only hope that if you realise any of these opportunities, you invest your ill-gotten gains in our timeless antiques... ●

90 Royal Hill SE10 8RT; 020 8691 2221; www.minerva-antiques.co.uk

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Sustainable energy hits the headlines almost weekly. In a recent article owner of D&J Roofing, Dave French told the 'News'...

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Style counsel

Interiors guru **Sonia Murton** falls head over heels for the latest designer collaborations on the high street

Oh la la… it's February! So it's only appropriate I bring to your attention the love affairs being flaunted on a high street near you. Yes, it may come as a shock, but there are an abundance of designers shamelessly boasting luxurious homewares at highly alluring prices.

Iconic textile designer **Celia Birtwell** has extended her offering at John Lewis from fashion to homewares. Incorporating her distinctive vintage aesthetic, the collection is bursting with energetic verve and romantic motifs. Available in a range of furnishing options including cushions, ready-made curtains and a retro PVC fabric, there is a beautiful Celia Birtwell print for every room in the house (prices from £14 per metre for the oil cloth).

Debenhams boasts a dream pool of renowned designers turning their hand to interiors. The choice is extensive, but this season I have fallen for **Matthew Williamson**. The dapper designer's Butterfly collection reflects his personal interior style – an eclectic medley of cleverly orchestrated rainbow brights and sheer interior inspiration. The bronze lanterns will add a stylish ambience to any room, even the bathroom, and are perfect for alfresco dining in a few months' time (prices from £15 for the small lantern). **J by Jasper Conran**, on the other hand, is more contemporary and exudes opulence – the taupe faux fur throw (£80) and cushions (£25) are stunning.

House of Fraser launches a new homeware collection this month, too. **Linea by Collier Campbell** is a collaboration between Linea and renowned textile designers Susan Collier and Sarah Campbell in celebration of 50 years of designing prints. The capsule collection includes vintage-style floral prints on bed linen and dinnerware in sugared pastel shades.

Zara Kids Home has some great Liberty art prints across bed linen – the Multiflower range is a colour design of printed flowers that are super cool in the style stakes. Kids will adore it, as will parents with prices starting from just £19.99. ●

Sonia Murton is founder of Belle Interiors, 17 Royal Parade BR7 6NR; 020 8467 0290; www.belleinteriors.co.uk

Clockwise from top left: Linea by Collier Campbell double duvet cover £60, pillowcase £15, from House of Fraser; J by Jasper Conran faux fur throw £80, cushion £25 from Debenhams; Celia Birtwell cushion £45 from John Lewis; Butterfly by Matthew Willamson lanterns £15, £35 and £75 from Debenhams

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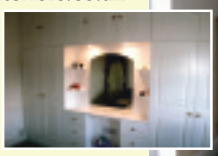

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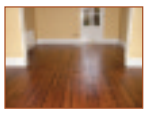

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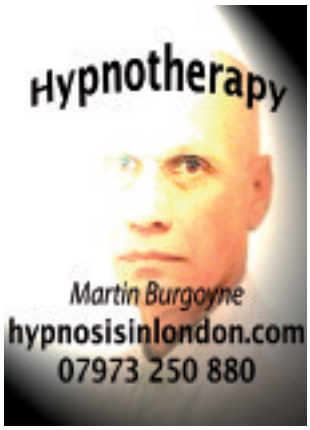

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Sales

Blackheath SE3 **£3,250,000 F/H**

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Bromley BR1 **£1,500,000 F/H**

Five bedroom, three bathroom, contemporary detached property in Sundridge Park. Offering 3581sqft. of the highest quality accommodation. Externally there is a mainly lawned, private rear garden of 110ft (approx), detached garage and gated off street parking.

Bromley South 020 8315 5544

Beckenham BR3 **£1,275,000 F/H**

With an enviable position overlooking Kelsey Park is this beautiful five bedroom family home. Renovated sympathetically throughout offering arts and crafts style original features. Boasts three reception rooms, Stoneham's designed kitchen/breakfast room and double garage.

Beckenham Branch 020 8663 4433

Chislehurst BR7 **£1,595,000 F/H**

Built in 1985 is this stylish family home of approximately 3000 sqft. Occupying a large plot of approximately 3/4 acre and located in this private gated development of just six houses, off Manor Park, Royal Parade.

Chislehurst Branch 020 8295 4900

Bromley BR2 **£499,995 F/H**

Charming four bedroom semi detached family home. The accommodation provides three generous receptions, WC, a newly fitted kitchen with high quality appliances, breakfast bar and utility room. Upstairs are four bedrooms, family bathroom and separate WC.

Bromley South 020 8315 5544

Beckenham BR3 **£679,950 F/H**

This beautiful end of terrace house is located in an exclusive gated development built in 2003. This property comprises lounge with separate dining area, fully equipped with integrated appliances, cloak room and four bedrooms. Further benefits include 12ft conservatory, secluded garden and NHBC Guarantee.

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Lettings

Chislehurst BR7 **£2,500 PCM**

Fantastic detached house situated on a lovely quiet road within walking distance to Chislehurst High Street and many excellent schools. Offered either unfurnished or fully furnished.

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Bromley BR1 **£3,200 PCM**

In an enviable position and boasts a low maintenance garden, four large double bedrooms, a vast open plan lounge and dining room, with two further reception rooms, three bathrooms and a study.

Bromley South 020 8315 5544

Beckenham BR3 **£2,500 PCM**

Located in the exclusive Langley Waterside development is this state of the art, one of a kind end of terrace house. Boasting two spacious double aspect reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, three bathrooms, system line entertainment package, low maintenance garden and garage to the rear of the property.

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Family *life*

This six-bedroom detached family home on Kidbrooke Grove SE3, close to Blackheath Village, is arranged over three levels and features a large rear garden and generous provision for driveway parking at the front. The three receptions mean plenty of room for the family and for entertaining guests, and there are also four bathrooms, a utility, cloakroom and a superb kitchen and dining area. The property is undergoing complete refurbishment, meaning the kitchen can be tailored to your specification. Blackheath Village offers upmarket traditional shops, smart boutiques, a wide selection of excellent cosmopolitan restaurants and a Sunday farmers' market. A complete floor and site plan is available on request. ●

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Ashburnham Place, Greenwich, SE10 - Freehold End Of Terrace House - £775,000

END OF TERRACE VICTORIAN HOUSE WITHIN THE SOUGHT AFTER ASHBURNHAM TRIANGLE CONSERVATION AREA!! Inside this Victorian house, which is spread over three floors, you shall find two good size reception rooms, a very modern fitted kitchen/diner with access to courtyard style garden with plenty of space to host barbecues and entertain guests and under stair storage. Upstairs you will find four double bedrooms, a spacious four piece bathroom suite with shower cubicle and on the top level a shower room with access to balcony/terrace. This period property is very well presented throughout, boasting many original features, presently with gas central heating powered by a combination boiler and is located within the very popular and sought after Ashburnham Triangle Conservation area, which dates back to the late 1700's. Greenwich mainline station and DLR are only moments away on foot and Greenwich Town Centre is a short walk away, where you can enjoy the historic and versatile Greenwich market, all it's quirky shops, bars/restaurants and Cutty Sark. The Royal Park is also moments away where you can enjoy 183 acres of parkland and beautiful outside spaces. A viewing of this amazing home is highly recommended, in order to fully appreciate its attributes.

Guildford Grove, Greenwich, SE10 - Freehold Semi Detached House - £650,000

This immaculate early Victorian semi detached house is situated within the very sought after Ashburnham Triangle, which we believe was built in 1845 and offers a peaceful location as well as many original features. Accommodation is arranged over three levels and includes a spacious living room, luxurious four piece bathroom suite including shower cubicle and two double sized bedrooms. On the lower ground level is a stunning kitchen/diner with a stylish contemporary kitchen (worktop designed by Greenwich Woodworks), dining area and another living area and access to a well presented private rear garden. This West Greenwich delight also offers a utility room, wood flooring throughout, cast iron fireplaces and sash windows. Greenwich Town Centre is a treasure trove of independent shops, from vintage boutique stores, diverse market stalls to quirky shops filled with handmade, antique or bespoke products. Greenwich Mainline and DLR station is a very short walk away.

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Head of Sales: Russell Sinclair

Company profile : An independent agent trading in Bromley, offering residential sales, lettings and financial services. The experienced and knowledgeable team provides effective marketing and advice.

Typical property: From apartments to three and four-bedroom family homes and executive homes.

Tips to seller: Choose an experienced and knowledgable agent who knows the market and get the kerb appeal right – first impressions count! A well presented home with minimal clutter is more appealing.

Tips to buyer: Work out your budget – get independent mortgage advice before viewing. Look at catchment areas for local schools and work with the local professionals and solicitors – they know the market.

Market comment: I expect the first half of 2011 to show good activity levels and prime properties in the right locations will achieve expectations. As for the second half of the year, with talk of interest rate rises, I expect the market to cool, while the lettings market continues to boom due to a lack of stock.

23 High Street, Bromley BR1 1LG; 020 8464 5566
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Capital Estate Agents

Head of sales and lettings: Rob Tancred

Company profile: Straight talking, no nonsense estate agents. Three local offices and staff who are active and polite!

Typical property: A good range of property for sale or to let, from a studio flat to a million-pound house.

Tips to seller: At Capital we take lots of photos. People normally make their mind up before they view a property from the details they can see online, so good photos are paramount.

Tips to buyer: Try to make your research as good as the agent's! Use all the internet search engines for a good idea of sold prices and bear in mind the three magic words: Location. Location, Location!

Market comment: It's actually not too bad out there, the market is ticking over nicely. As long as interest rates don't go past 3% this year then the market will remain buoyant but stable. Rentals are fantastic and buy to let is working rather well.

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Head of sales and lettings: Andrew Roberts
Company profile: An independent agency with 32 offices and divisions.
Typical property: Apartments, family homes and exclusive homes in Bromley and its environs.
Tips to seller: Choose a proactive agent. A strong understanding of the local market and a good marketing strategy will ensure you maximise value. Don't compromise service for reduced fees.
Tips to buyer: Speak to an independent mortgage advisor before viewing properties and make sure you know how much you can afford. Make the most of your agents – tell them what you like and what you don't like about what you're being offered. Be open minded.
Market comment: With interest rates remaining low for the foreseeable future and mortgage companies offering competitive rates, it is likely 2011 will be a busy year for sales. Demand for good quality rental stock is as high as ever. Landlords again need to take good advice before appointing an agent. They could miss out if they don't.
020 8295 4900; andrew.roberts@langfordrussell.co.uk
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River Habitat

Listing department, SE London: Julian Jarvis
Company profile: River Habitat is an established boutique property company with a primarily Canary Wharf client base. We've been making inroads into the Blackheath and Greenwich markets over the last 2-3 years.
Typical property: A good base of 1-3 bedroom flats, mostly purpose-built blocks. We're building an inventory of houses, mostly in East Greenwich, and would welcome more period property conversions.
Tips to buyer: Have an open mind about the possibilities of a property. Opening up a wall to let in more light, for example, can change a gloomy prospect into a wonderful home.
Tips to seller: Have patience and listen to feedback from potential purchasers – offering a solution can translate into an offer.
Market comment: The change of government and international credit concerns have dampened general demand, yet the changing demographics of our clients provides a steady stream of buyers. Demand for lettings is increasing, squeezing prices upwards.
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Invicta Road, SE3 £325,000 L/H

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Parkside, SE3 £420,000 S/O F/H

Delightful top floor apartment in this popular purpose built block adjacent to Greenwich Royal Park and with exceptional uninterrupted views over Blackheath. Two double bedrooms, reception, eat-in-kitchen and garage en-bloc.

King William Walk, SE10 £2,650 pcm Unfurnished

An attractive 4 storey, 4 bedroom period townhouse situated in the heart of Greenwich town centre. 3 double bedrooms and 1 single/study. Two inter-connecting reception rooms. Fully fitted kitchen. Separate dining room. Large family bathroom. Rear garden.

Bennett Park, SE3 £2,700 pcm Unfurnished

A superb 2/3 bedroom apartment in this fine Grade II listed building in the heart of Blackheath Village. Kitchen/diner with direct access to a wonderful private roof terrace. Reception space with pitched roof and polished wood floors. Allocated parking space. .

Blackheath Road, SE10 £485,000 L/H

Stunning 2 bedroom duplex loft style apartment set on the top floor of this converted former Victorian school. High quality fitted kitchen and 2 contemporary bathrooms. Allocated parking and communal courtyard style garden. Close to Deptford Bridge DLR station.

Heathway, SE3 Guide Price £655,000 F/H

This 3 bedroom detached house offers a real hideaway; set behind a high wall with leafy and secluded front & rear courtyard gardens. The accommodation is well planned and includes a large galley kitchen/utility room and reception/dining room.

Ashburnham Grove, SE10 £840,000 F/H

Architect-designed glass extension housing a contemporary kitchen within this three storey 2 bedroom, 2 reception Victorian townhouse in the Ashburnham Triangle Conservation Area. The property has been the subject of a complete refurbishment creating a truly unique home.

Park Vista, SE10 £1,525,000 F/H

A substantial late Victorian semi-detached house, adjacent to Greenwich Park with views towards the Royal Observatory and Canary Wharf, offering spacious accommodation over four floors with up to 5 bedrooms and 2 reception rooms. Attractive walled rear garden.

Greenwich High Road, SE10 £3,950 pcm Part-furn

A beautifully refurbished 4 storey, 5 bedroom Georgian townhouse close to Greenwich mainline and DLR stations, with 20ft entrance hall with built-in storage cupboards. 3 reception rooms. 23ft contemporary kitchen leading onto garden with decked patio area and lawn.

Oakcroft Road, SE13 £4,500 pcm Unfurnished

A spacious detached 5 bedroom Edwardian family house situated in quiet road close to the Heath, Lewisham mainline and DLR stations. 2 reception rooms. Large kitchen/diner. 2 bathrooms and guest cloakroom. Large garden to rear.

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Well presented Three Bedroom family home located within this Victorian Terrace. Half a miile of Hither Green Station, many original style features, 22ft Lounge, 18ft Kitchen/Diner. A Must View!
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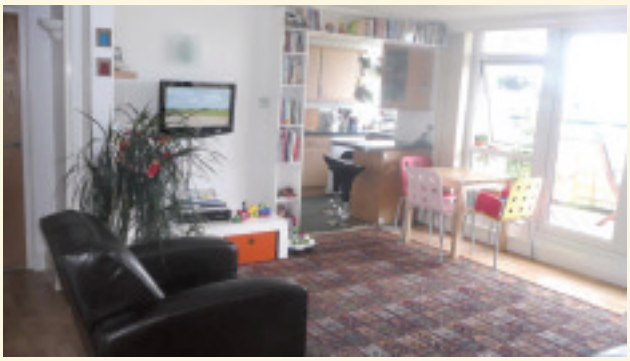

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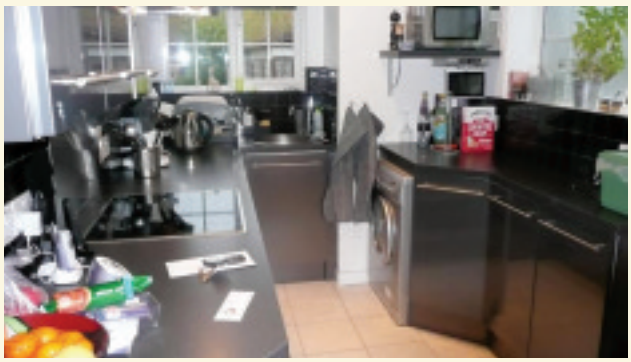

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jdm ESTATE AGENTS

ELTHAM

GUIDE
£2,250,000

Fine Edwardian family home close to Eltham Palace and backing Blackheath Golf Course. Extensive accommodation includes 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, guest suite with shower, reception hall, sitting room, dining room and library. Other features such as study, laundry room, boot room and cellar make this a fine family home. 120' frontage and 200' rear south easterly aspect garden. 40' garage.

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Moving times

This month's hottest properties and market news

Morden Lane SE13
This grand, three bedroom house on the outskirts of Blackheath features bespoke interiors and a private landscaped garden. Downstairs is designed for minimalist, open-plan living with floor-to-ceiling windows and the bathrooms are both custom designed. The property is accessed via private gates, there is a large garage and both Blackheath and Lewisham stations are nearby.
Guide price £1,350,000 from Cluttons on 020 7407 3669

Blyth Wood Park BR1
Blyth Wood Park is one of Bromley's most popular developments. Located within walking distance of the town centre, it has a strong residents' association, a secure telephone entry system, underground parking, sauna and gym facilities. This particular spacious property features two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a lounge/diner stretching the length of the property and private balcony.
£249,995 from Ashdale on 020 8466 8445

Award winning development
Higgins Homes has won a Best Apartment London award for Prime, a contemporary development of new homes in Hither Green, at the prestigious International Property Awards. Jeremy Marcus, Sales and Marketing Director for Higgins Homes, said: "Prime is a quintessential example of what Higgins Homes is best known for: fabulous, contemporary homes in an up-and-coming location, which are affordable for first time buyers."
Prices from £99,950 on 020 8697 4761

Olympics rentals
With the 2012 Olympics fast approaching, thousands of visitors are seeking a convenient place to stay. Accommodation for the Games has launched a website to help property owners earn extra income by advertising their property as a holiday rental for the Olympics. There are online guides for advertisers, who can upload photos of their property, describe the local amenities and pinpoint it on a map.
www.accommodationforthegames.com

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MOVING

BLACKHEATH **GUIDE PRICE £1.3 million**

Lovely detached family home in prime Cator Estate location. In pristine order and tastefully decorated - 4 beds - 3 rec - luxury family bathroom - cloaks - laundry - with planning for kitchen extension - also offering scope for further extension. Wide plot with lovely garden, garage and o/street parking.

BLACKHEATH **Guide price £1.35 million**

Opportunity to acquire large house currently arranged as 6 units offering scope for restoration and improvement. 160' garden, off road parking and garage annexe.

CATOR ESTATE **Price £450,000 Freehold**

Modern house in sought after mews - two double beds - new bathroom - living room - kitchen/breakfast room - south facing garden - communal gardens and garage.

BLACKHEATH **Price £450,000**

Beautifully restored and remodelled ground floor flat that has been opened up to now offer a really spacious and contemporary two double bedroom home with direct access to garden and garage.

www.kershaws.eu
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020 8297 2922

Agent speaks

Sam Samuels, owner of Ashdale Estate Agents, examines what the year ahead heralds for the property market

Sam Samuels

So here we go into 2011, encircled by gloom and uncertainty. Major companies reporting loss in profits reportedly caused by bad weather, a gloomy economic forecast, and, to top things off, we have the rise in VAT from 17.5% to 20% to contend with.

Some would argue VAT was already at an unacceptable level, but the true impact of this increase will be seen come spring. Personally I don't believe it is a worthy strategy by the government, but only time will tell.

What's in store for the sales market? One would hope an adjustment in house prices to offset the rise supported by loose lending tendencies over the past 10 years. The difficulty for honest, professional agents is conveying the point – even with the wealth of evidence available online. Most property prices online are still reflecting the values of three years ago, not what they actually sell for, so current pricing levels are misleading. Until actual sold prices are printed by the Land Registry, we will not see the reductions needed to kick-start the market again.

Buyers most certainly remain in the marketplace, although these are more cautious and intelligent buyers. If you are sensible about the value of property, there is scope for movement in the market to take place. However, I feel there's still some way to go before we begin to see significant changes in prices to get the market moving once again. If you are a vendor, it is a vital part of the process to view the market from a buyers' perspective.

We remain an overpopulated country with an ageing population. This should maintain pricing levels in the long term, but for this year it would be nice to see an adjustment to sustainable levels which will hold for the next five-to-ten years.

By contrast, the lettings market is enjoying a flourishing period for landlords. With reduced levels of buy-to-let stock and a low 'churn' rate caused by tenants staying for longer, we are seeing rents rising to premium levels. Most landlords are enjoying yields of up to 15%, but to those buy-to-let investors who entered the market late, be warned interest rates are expected to increase incrementally throughout 2011.

If this is the case, some landlords will find themselves having to supplement their rental income to cover the mortgage payment. If you are in this situation, consult a mortgage broker as early as possible for advice. Generally, however, the news has to be good for landlords – minimal void periods, premium rent levels and a choice of professional tenants eager to secure your property.

What's in store for the sales market? One would hope an adjustment in house prices to offset the rise supported by loose lending over the past 10 years

Call 020 8466 8445 or see www.ashdale.com

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ESTATE AGENTS

HAMMELTON ROAD, BR1 - £1125PCM

Complete with Sky and broadband terminals, this 2 bedroom GARDEN flat has open plan living space with an impressive kitchen including dishwasher and microwave. Solid oak floors to living area. This flat offers something different to the usual developer designs. 020 8466 8445

KINGSWOOD ROAD, BR2 - £1600PCM

Large extended semi-detached house with spacious thru-lounge, quality kitchen, conservatory and four bedrooms. Located on a smart residential road, within Langley schools catchment. Available 12th February 2011. Call 020 8466 8445 to view.

BLYTH ROAD, BR1 - £1200PCM

A first floor 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment with large balcony/roof terrace. Built to a luxurious standard with high specification fitted kitchen and bathrooms, within walking distance of Shortlands BR and Bromley Town Centre. Off road parking. 020 8466 8445

LANGLEY WATERSIDE, BR3 - £1500PCM

A luxury apartment in the highly desirable gated Langley Waterside development. Offering spacious and high specification living, with large sitting room with views over the lake with balcony, 2 double bedrooms - master en-suite with 2nd balcony and quality kitchen. 020 8466 8445

HOLLYDALE DRIVE, BR2 - £2500PCM

A fantastic secluded 4 bedroom, 2 reception 2 bathroom detached home with garage and set in large gardens including a play area. Secure gated entrance with 8ft surrounding wall. Main reception room with vaulted ceiling. Available from early February 2011. To view call 020 8466 8445

DOWNDERRY ROAD, BR1 - £725PCM

One bedroom furnished conversion flat with access to shared garden. Modern fully fitted kitchen/diner with wood laminate. Main living area with new carpets. Separate bathroom with modern aluminium/glass shower unit. Close to Grove Park BR and £725pcm (inclusive of bills negotiable). 020 8466 8445

BLYTHWOOD PARK, BR1 - £249,995

A two bedroom spacious property incl. 2 bathrooms and private balcony in this popular Blyth Wood Park development. Facilities include secure telephone entry system, lift access, gated parking underground, sauna and gym facilities. Within a 1/4 mile from Bromley Town Centre and easy transport access. To view call 020 8466 8445

020 8466 8445

www.ashdale.com

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CANONBIE ROAD, SE23 **£750,000 UNDER OFFER**

Perched proudly on Canonbie Rd is this handsome 5 bedroom, double fronted Victorian house on a large plot. The house has plenty of period features and charm and offers a large front garden with OSP and side access. The house offers a panoramic view over the London skyline which on a nice day/evening is breathtaking!

BENSON ROAD, SE23 **£695,000 SOLD**

Be prepared to be wowed by this truly exceptional 5 Bed Edwardian house located on one of Forest Hill's premier roads. The house is a short stroll from the station and the East London Line. It is also in the catchment to the lovely Fairlawn School, Horniman School, Horniman Museum and its beautiful gardens.

NETHERBY ROAD, SE23 **£550,000 UNDER OFFER**

Lovely three bed house in the sought after Horniman area. House has retained many original features including attic stained glass windows, oak turned staircase and four working ornate fireplaces. Bathroom retains marble edging and doors the original paintwork and doorknobs.

CROFTON PARK RD, SE4 **£460,000 UNDER OFFER**

A fantastic 4 bed family home set conveniently on the Honor Oak/Crofton Park borders and only a short walk from both stations. Benefitting from a superb loft conversion this house offers a wonderful contemporary/period mix.

DARFIELD ROAD, SE4 **£385,000 UNDER OFFER**

Set in this quiet residential road in the ever-popular area of Crofton Park is this extremely well-presented 3 Bed period house. The first thing to strike you is the brightness throughout this lovingly restored and tastefully decorated home.

MERRITT RD, SE4 **£295,000 UNDER OFFER**

A stunning period maisonette with its own entrance from the street. The apartment shows off a fantastic double aspect reception which is open to a lovely bright kitchen with an exposed brick feature wall. Both bedrooms are good sized doubles and the bathroom comprises a roll top bath and walk in wet room to the rear.

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Fax: 020 8299 1109
Email: info@pickwickestates.com

Tel: 020 8463 9955
www.heathestates.eu

Havelock Walk SE23 — Guide price £1,350,000

Set within the thriving and artistic community of Havelock Walk, a charming mews located in the heart of Forest Hill, comes this spectacular live/work gallery and spacious home. Designed by the internationally renowned sculptor Jeff Lowe, this unique and versatile warehouse set over three floors boasts approximately 5000sq ft of space. Creating a perfect setting for a multitude of creative businesses of which Havelock Walk mews is already home to.

Wemyss Road Blackheath SE3 — Guide price £1,250,000

An exquisite four bedroom, four storey Victorian family home, located within the very heart of Blackheath village. The property boasts an abundance of period character and charm and comes with a beautiful and secluded south facing garden. This tastefully renovated home is offered onto the market chain free.

heath ESTATES

Stratheden Road SE3 **£2450pcm**

A fabulous high spec new build three double bedroom two bathroom penthouse apartment with large wrap around terrace, lift, secure off street parking, video entry system. Good transport links to central London and Docklands.

Kidbrooke Grove SE3 **£1600pcm**

A superb two double bedroom two bathroom split level conversion flat situated in one of the most sought after tree lined roads in Blackheath, a short walk away from Blackheath Village and the open Heath.

Westcombe park Road SE3 £2750pcm

A stunning totally refurbished 2 double bedroom two bathroom garden floor conversion flat forming part of an imposing period house, next to Greenwich Park and close to Maze Hill BR station.

Littleheath Charlton SE7 **£1200pcm**

A charming three bedroom split level Victorian maisonette located in a sought after residential area in Charlton, a short walk away to both Maryon Wilson Park and Charlton Park and all local amenities.

The Art Club SE3 **£2700pcm**

A stunning 2/3 bedroom two bathroom duplex apartment forming part of a magnificent Grade ll listed building formerly the 'Art Club' located in a quiet road yet in the Heart of Blackheath Village.

John Payne

Dacre Park, SE13 - Guide £1,250,000 Freehold

Montpelier Vale SE3 - Guide £1,600,000 Freehold

Egerton Drive, SE10 - £1,100,000 Freehold

Blackheath Hill, SE10 - £559,950 Freehold

Horn Park Lane, SE12 - £450,000 Freehold

Manor Park, SE13 - £675,000 Freehold

johnpayne.com

Little Heath, Charlton, SE7 - £625,000 Freehold

Stratheden Road, SE3 - £515,000 Leasehold (Share of F/h)

The Close, SE3 - Guide £1,400,000 Freehold

Foxes Dale, SE3 - Guide £1,750,000 Freehold

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We've been the trusted local estate agent for over 35 years, through all the major peaks and troughs of the property market.

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We've helped literally thousands of people buy and sell homes over the years. We develop an ongoing relationship with our customers, many of whom come back to us again and again.

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